



Slave Cabins on Wormsloe Plantation, ca. 1870s.
De Renne Family Papers, Stereograph, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia

Wormsloe's first slave dwellings were rude huts near Noble Jones's fortified house, probably the same structures that the fort's marines had used in their watch for Spanish invaders. Noble Jones's great-grandson, George Wymberley Jones, built eight frame slave houses during his agricultural improvement campaign of the 1850s. Jones arranged the new cabins in a double row roughly halfway between the mansion house and the historic fort, with an overseer's house located at the northern end of the slave village.

These slave houses existed at the edge of the plantation's work and wild spaces. Wormsloe's slaves lived next to the quarters field and in close proximity to the old fort field and the Jones mansion. Their homes also bordered the rich estuarial marsh of the Skidaway River and the mixed pine and hardwood forest that covered much of the southern end of the Isle of Hope peninsula. Each cabin was surrounded by a paling fence that enclosed a kitchen garden and a few chickens. Slaves labored in the cotton fields and farm buildings most mornings and early afternoons, and hunted, fished, and tended their own small gardens in the evenings and on Sundays.

Following Emancipation, some of Wormsloe's former slaves continued to live in the plantation's cabins and farm the land, first as sharecroppers and then as renters and wage laborers. During the early twentieth century the De Renne family dismantled all of the cabins save one and used the salvaged materials in other construction projects. The family remodeled the remaining cabin for historical reenactments in the 1930s park, and the structure survives today.